

REMARKS

The Applicant respectfully requests further examination and consideration in view of the arguments set forth fully below. Claims 1-27 were previously pending in this application. Within the Office Action, Claims 1-3, 7, 10-16 and 19-27 have been rejected, Claims 17 and 18 have been allowed and Claims 4-6, 8 and 9 have been objected to. By the above amendment, Claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 11, 13, 17, 19 and 25 have been amended and Claims 6 and 8 have been canceled. Accordingly, Claims 1-5, 7 and 9-27 are currently pending.

The Applicant and his attorney would like to thank Examiner Harper for his time and courteousness during the telephone interview on Thursday, December 16, 2004. During the interview, it was agreed that the rejections based on U.S. Patent No. 6,775,714 to Miyano (hereinafter "Miyano") would be withdrawn.

Objections to the Specification

Within the Office Action, the abstract of the disclosure has been objected to because it exceeds 150 words. By the above amendment, the abstract has been amended so that it now has less than 150 words.

Objections to the Claims

Within the Office Action, Claim 13 has been objected to because the phrase "at least of" in line 1 should be - - at least one of - -. By the above amendment, this phrase within Claim 13 has been amended per the Examiner's suggestion.

Objections to the Drawings

Within the Office Action, Figure 5A has been objected to for lacking a legend such as "Prior Art". By the above amendment to the drawings, Figure 5A has been amended to include the legend "Prior Art".

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C § 102

Within the Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 7, 10-13, 16, 19-21 and 24-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Miyano and U.S. Published Application No.

2002/0026540 to Smyers (hereinafter "Smyers"). As discussed above, during the interview between the Examiner and the applicant's attorney on December 16, 2004, it was agreed that the rejections based on Miyano would be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C § 103

Within the Office Action, Claims 3, 14, 15, 22 and 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyano and Smyers in view of U.S. Published Application No. 2002/0196374 to Barry et al. (hereinafter "Barry"). As discussed above, during the interview between the Examiner and the applicant's attorney on December 16, 2004, it was agreed that the rejections based on Miyano would be withdrawn.

Within the Office Action, it is indicated that Claims 17 and 18 are allowed and Claims 4-6, 8 and 9 are objected to.

By the above amendment, amendments have been made to the independent Claims 1, 7, 11, 19 and 25, as discussed within the interview between the Examiner and the applicant's attorney on December 16, 2004.

For the reasons given above, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP

Dated: December 23, 2004

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 C.F.R. § 1.605)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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4/9

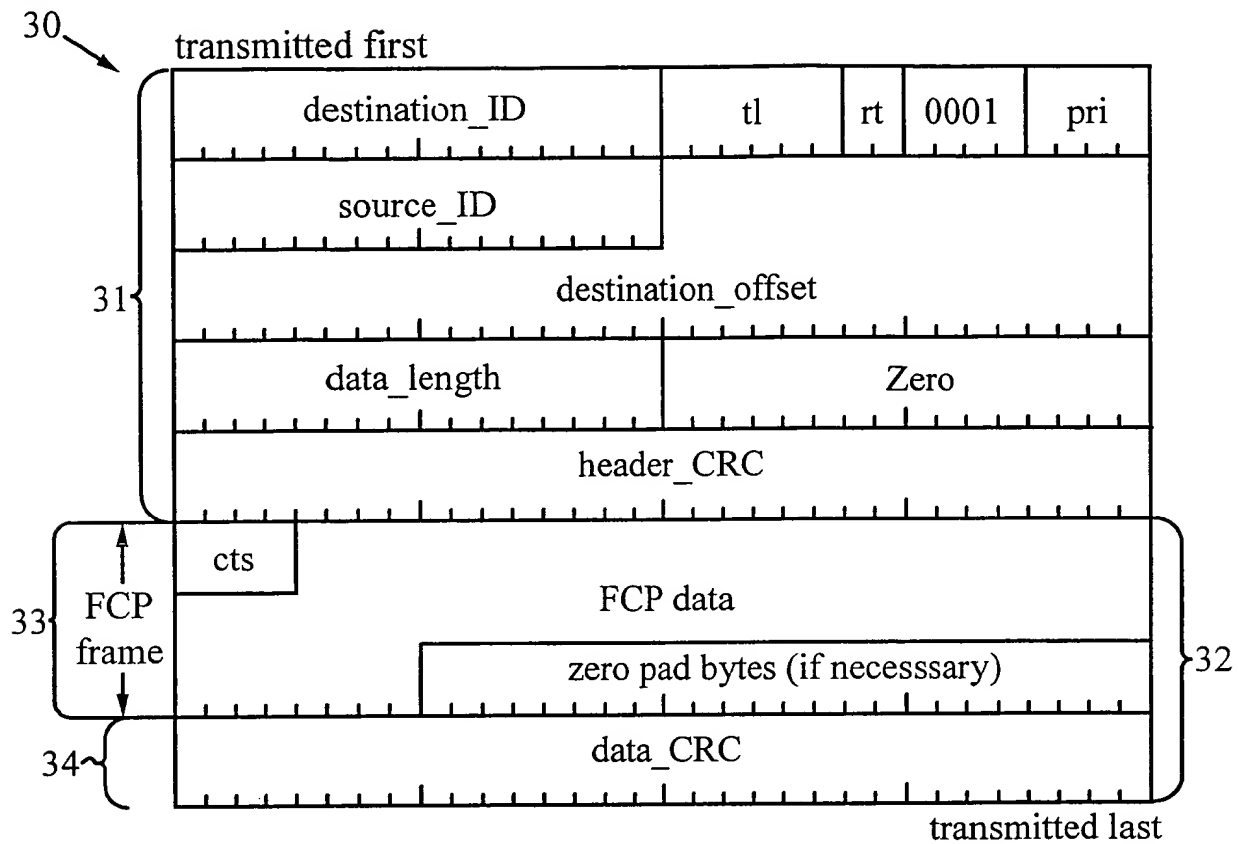


Fig. 4 PRIOR ART

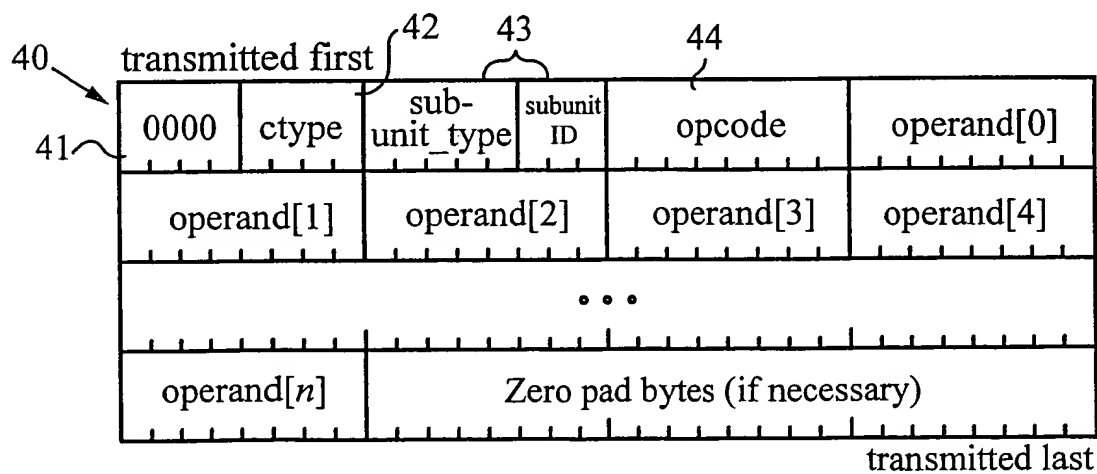


Fig. 5A PRIOR ART